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Week of June 11, 2023

## WHAT TO DO WITH THE GIFT?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and become \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus  
Hebrews 5:8, Philippians 3:10

2. \_\_\_\_\_ His Holy Spirit  
Isaiah 11:1-2; John 14:6,

3. \_\_\_\_\_ to the day of His return  
1 Thessalonias 4:13; Revelation 21:4

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.”

1 Peter 4:12-19

### KEY IDEA

\_\_\_\_\_ informs \_\_\_\_\_

When we start with the premise of \_\_\_\_\_, it changes how we \_\_\_\_\_ the things that \_\_\_\_\_ us

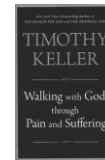
### THE GIFT NO ONE WANTS

1. It’s okay to cry out I don’t \_\_\_\_\_  
Psalm 6:6; Matthew 26:38-39; 2 Corinthians 1:8

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the fire is that it exposes false \_\_\_\_\_.  
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Jeremiah 2:27

3. God is not the \_\_\_\_\_ of our suffering but He can \_\_\_\_\_ it  
Genesis 50:20; Acts 2:23

Surprised By Suffering?



#### Book Recommendation:

*Walking with God through Pain and Suffering* by Tim Keller

**Acknowledgements:** Sources used in the preparation of this message include material presented by Tim Keller, Alistair Begg, Matt Chandler, Joel Green, Scott McKnight, Craig Keener, Paul Brand and many more.

### MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Invite Jesus to by my Lord and Savior for the first time today
- Memorize 1 Peter 4:13
- Believe that despite today’s trial God still calls me beloved
- Ask God to help me to trust Him that this fire will not consume me
- Take some time this week to reflect on and thank God for the way He has used suffering in my life
- Get the most out of today’s message by attending my Life Group





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1. Lean into Jesus and become more like Jesus  
Hebrews 5:8, Philippians 3:10

2. Live by His Holy Spirit  
Isaiah 11:1-2; John 14:6,

3. Look forward to the day of His return  
1 Thessalonias 4:13; Revelation 21:4

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.”

1 Peter 4:12-19

### KEY IDEA

Identity informs actions

When we start with the premise of beloved, it changes how we face the things that face us

### THE GIFT NO ONE WANTS

1. It’s okay to cry out I don’t want it

Psalms 6:6; Matthew 26:38-39; 2 Corinthians 1:8

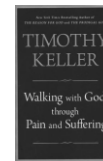
2. The gift of the fire is that it exposes false gods. The danger of the fire is that it exposes false faith

Jeremiah 2:27

3. God is not the source of our suffering but He can use it

Genesis 50:20; Acts 2:23

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## Discussion Questions - Week #8

# LIFEGROUPS

### QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend, "Surprised By Suffering", summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Do you plan on taking any practical steps this week in response to the message?

### GETTING STARTED

▶ Share an example of a tough time in your life that God has used to shape who you are today.

▶ Share something that you've done that was difficult, maybe even painful when going through it, but you were glad you did so afterward.

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Like 1 Peter, the book of James offers practical encouragement on responding to suffering. Read James 1:1-12. Do you find this passage an encouragement or discouragement to your faith?

Why do you think some people are refined by their trials, made mature and complete, while they simply consume others?

What can we do to increase the likelihood of persevering in our trials?

How do you think we experience or express pure joy when facing a devastating trial?

Do you think it's helpful to quote these words from James to someone currently enduring a trial? Why or why not?

2. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-9. Is there anything that surprises you about Paul opening his letter to the Corinthians with a discussion about suffering?

How have you practically experienced God's comfort in times of trouble?

What lessons do you think Paul wants the Corinthians to learn from his and his co-laborers' experience in the province of Asia?

How do you trust God amid suffering when you don't understand it?

Do you think non-believers and believers should experience suffering differently? If so, how?

Can you think of any examples where you have been able to use the suffering you've endured to bring comfort to another?

### For Practice

Ephesians 5:19 says, "speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord". Paul admonishes us to worship and remember God's goodness. He's not speaking exclusively of what we do on Sunday mornings, but rather a heart disposition and daily habit. To speak and sing in psalms and hymns requires that we have committed them to memory. Storing up a rich treasury of God's promises in our hearts and calling them to mind often is one of the surest means of preparation for the suffering that will inevitably come. Regardless of the season in which you find yourself consider setting aside time over the next week or more to commit worshipful content to memory so that you can begin regularly reminding yourself and others of God's incredible goodness.

### SHARE IT

Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

There are more than 2 billion Muslims globally, representing the fastest-growing religious group. Take a moment and pray for missions and mission organizations ministering in predominantly Muslim regions and for God to raise committed believers within Muslim communities.